

Patients in Wards Hold Priority at Army Base Hospital this Christmas

The first Christmas at the recently established Army Station Hospital for the L. A. Port of Embarkation in Torrance will be observed by a series of events in an atmosphere that bespeaks the real meaning of the festive day.

Lt. Col. W. H. L. Westbrook, Jr., the commanding officer, is particularly interested in the men who have arrived at the station for hospitalization where they receive the very best of skilled medical attention and where they may have the constant care of the trained women of the Army Nurse Corps during their period of convalescence. To everyone around the hospital, the men in the wards are rated as having first priority on this Christmas.

Donors Generous
The big industries of this area, the Red Cross organization, civic groups and individuals have been extremely generous with their donations to make this holiday a cheery one for all these men. The spirit in which they gave for a worthy and patriotic purpose is duly appreciated by Col. Westbrook and his staff and they are deeply thankful.

Every patient in the hospital will receive gifts early Christmas morning in their respective wards. These will be distributed to the men by the American Red Cross. Each ward will have its individual Christmas tree, a hospital spokesman said.

All officers at the hospital, including the medical detachment and nurses, also will have their Christmas tree loaded down with gifts sent in by friends and relatives. The recreation hall has been a busy place for several days, where members of the Red Cross organizations and volunteers have been engaged in installing decorations to denote the festive holiday spirit prevailing about the big institution. Mary Frances Wilkinson, field director of the American Red Cross, was in charge of this work.

Feast of Turkey
On Christmas Day at noon the hospital patients will be served a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Later the same menu will be enjoyed by hospital officers, including members of the medical staff and nurses. Last Saturday night the medical detachment sponsored a holiday party at the recreation hall from 8:30 to 11:30, which was attended by their wives and girlfriends from the surrounding area. The medics staged an entertainment program, with a colored orchestra from the L.A. P.E. headquarters at Wilmington supplying the music.

Wednesday night, Dec. 29, hospital officers and nurses will participate in a formal party in the recreation hall.

Gifts From Torrance
While Torrance Junior Red Cross has been intensely interested in making this Christmas a happy one at the hospital, they are not alone in this effort, for other organizations, equally solicitous, have been active with this object in view. It may be interesting to know that the Torrance group, assisted by faculty members and students of the Torrance schools, has filled 38 packages, each containing a carton of cigarettes, comb, wash cloth, a story book, handkerchiefs, razor blades and a pen-

Rev. Bauer's Christmas Message To Members of This Community

Rev. Joseph L. Bauer, pastor of the Church of the Nativity in Torrance today issued his 1943 message to residents of this community. It reads:

"The Holy Christmas festival brings to our attention annually the greatest event in the history of mankind. Other events stand out with sharp prominence and are given a fitting commemoration by festive celebration. But none is so stupendous as the fact that the Son of God who was in the form of God and equal to God, made Himself like man and lived on this earth for our guidance and example.

"The return of our Lord's birthday always renews in each Christian soul the realization of the union of Divinity with humanity and begets anew the Joy and Peace which could be born only from such a union.

"Christmas is Christ, the Christ of Justice and Charity and freedom and peace. War cannot kill the real joy of Christmas because it is the joy of the soul and the soul cannot die. The world cannot shatter it because it is the union with Christ who has overcome the world. Christmas is the birthday of freedom for it is only the following of Christ that makes man free.

"There can be peace in our hearts today provided we rededicate ourselves to Christ. Let Him have first place in our lives; avoid all selfish sin and crime; pray earnestly and sincerely as though we really meant what we were saying when speaking to God; accept crosses and trials manfully and with courage. In doing these things we shall present ourselves as worthy gifts to Him, the Prince of Peace.

"On this Holy occasion, I invoke the blessings of Heaven upon each and every member of our community—praying to God that you may have and enjoy the blessed Christmas filled with many favors and graces from the hands of the Infant Jesus. May you have an abundance of good health together with peace of mind, of heart and of conscience. A Holy Christmas! A Holy New Year!

Very devoutly,
"FATHER BAUER,
Pastor of the Church of the Nativity."

Somebody Has Been Getting Too Much Gas

"Some persons have used a lot of gasoline which they were not entitled to receive," declared Frank Daniels, chief clerk of Ration Board No. 562 at 2300 Carson st., after completing a survey of the lost and found record supplied by the Torrance police department.

"The survey shows some rather startling information, to indicate," Daniels asserted, "that there are a lot of people whose honesty might be questioned, despite the great inconvenience they may have caused their fellow citizens."

Altogether a total of 253 ration books, gasoline and fuel were reported to the police department as having been either lost or stolen. Out of this number only 22 were recovered and returned to their rightful owners.

The principal losses or thefts involved the basic A gasoline coupon books. Out of 133 said to have been lost or stolen, only 13 were turned in at the police station. These were turned over to the ration board and, in due time, reached the owners.

Out of 43 supplementary gas ration coupon books, just two were recovered. The police reported having received lost or stolen complaints from 77 holders of food ration coupon books. Seven were turned in at the police station.

In addition to the foregoing, it was learned at the ration board offices, a great many ration books turned in by "honest" finders were returned to the board and the owners notified by post card that they could be repossessed by calling with proper identifying credentials. No record of these cases were kept. However, the board still has a long list of coupon books which the board has been unable to deliver, it was explained.

QUOTA STILL SHORT

The senior Red Cross organization reports that it is still short of its quota of Christmas gifts for men and women in the armed services. More are needed and will be accepted even if some cannot be delivered before the holiday, it was asserted.

oil and pad. Other gifts include 17 joke books, 25 Christmas cards, 97 tree ornaments, 9 embroidered score cards, 56 wooden diet-card holders, 90 score pads, 1 Afghan, 3 pairs of invalid slippers, and other useful articles. Many gifts collected by the Senior Red Cross will also be delivered to the hospital, it was learned.

For some time past eligibility certificates for these houses has been confined entirely to asserted bona-fide employees of war industries, to the exclusion of all civilian employees engaged in constructing war houses or those in other work for the government such as the Army Station hospital in Torrance and even officials of the hospital staff, for example.

Under the new regulations the scope of eligibles has been extended to all persons in key positions engaged in some form of essential war work for the government, it was explained.

Christmas Vesper Service Held at Methodist Church
The Methodist church was the scene of a beautiful Christmas vesper service Sunday evening at 5 o'clock.

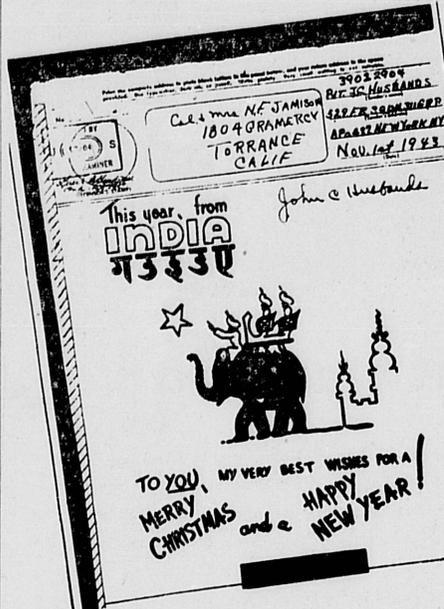
Under the direction of Richard Hogue a vested choir sang the cantata, "Gloria in Excelsis" with Mrs. Hilda Findley accompanying. Solo parts were taken by Mrs. Irene Findley, Mrs. Mary Bartholomew, Mrs. Rose King, Mrs. Ruth Branton, Miss Katherine Turner, Mrs. Margaret Triplett, Miss Elsa Stanley, Charles Bartholomew, F. O. Perkins, Stanley Hendrickson and Bob McKenzie.

The church was beautifully decorated with Christmas greens, red berries and poinsettias lighted by candles and a tall Christmas tree covered with a myriad of blue lights. There was an

TORRANCE HERALD

ESTABLISHED 1914 TWO SECTIONS — 11 PAGES
29th YEAR—No. 51 TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1943 PER COPY 5¢

V-Mail Christmas Greetings From Our Boys Overseas



FROM INDIA . . . comes this artistic message from John C. Husbands to Col. and Mrs. N. F. Jamieson.



FROM THE SOUTH PACIFIC . . . Nick Perovich sends his greetings to the Torrance Herald staff.



FROM ENGLAND . . . Robert A. Golden greets his local friends with this attractive hand-drawn design.

Blood Bank to Visit Torrance on January 17

Announcement was made this week by Mrs. O. A. Kresse, Red Cross Blood Bank chairman, that visitation of the Blood Bank unit to Torrance, originally scheduled for Jan. 6, has been changed to Monday, Jan. 17, 8:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m.

All wishing to sign up are requested to do so early as not more than 225 persons can be taken care of during the hours set, as the unit coming here on the date set is a small one. This will be the only blood bank during January, Mrs. Kresse advised.

New Directive Modifies War Housing Ban

Government restrictions that have prevailed for some time on war-time built houses were drastically modified by the National Housing Agency in a directive received in Torrance last Saturday, according to Fred S. Bausfeld, manager of the sales and rentals for the Torrance Tract and later confirmed by Pat MacDonnell, area manager of the South Bay and Harbor districts, including the one in Torrance.

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Longren Factory Annex Delayed By Confusion Over 'Intent'

Because Glenn Jain, Torrance city engineer, wanted members of the city council to give him an interpretation of "intent" of the zone variance permit granted early last July, the Longren Aircraft Co. has been delayed temporarily in getting work started on a 55x70-foot addition to its plant on Carson st.

Longren officials explained that the plant is engaged in 100 per cent war work and they are anxious to get the building under cover as rapidly as possible to protect essential war products before the winter rainy period sets in.

Council in Haze
While council members each individually expressed a desire to give the aircraft company the "go ahead" sign since it is engaged entirely in turning out war products, yet they were a bit confused themselves about the scope of the permit granted last July, so they "passed the buck" on to the planning commission because of possible legal technicalities and requested the plan group to meet Tuesday night, Dec. 21, to define its "intent" when making recommendations to the council on the Longren application before the existing action of approval at the meeting held early in July.

It appears that in its original application the aircraft company asked permission to construct its present factory building and also to pave the 55x70-space with concrete without specifically advising that it proposed to use this area later for an additional factory building.

Engineer Cautious
Here lies the crux of the controversy. Wording of the application confused the city engineer who explained that he didn't want to take the responsibility of approving the new application without first calling the matter to the attention of the councilmen. It was pointed out by Otto B. Willett, acting city attorney, that if the Planning Commission would broaden its meaning of "intent" the question of legal technicalities might be erased and that the city engineer could then lawfully proceed to grant the company's new application. So in this form the matter was dropped into the lap of the planning commission. Anyway, the Longren company has lost at least one week of valuable time in getting the proposed new construction under way.

unique candle-lighting service at the close with the minister lighting his candle from the tall candle placed in front of the rostrum. He, in turn, lighted the candles of the four girl soloists. They then lighted the candles of the congregation and choir. The choir sang "Silent Night" during this ceremony and then to the recessional, "O Come All Ye Faithful." They proceeded to the narthex and sang carols as the congregation went out with their lighted candles.

Architect William J. Gage, 468 North Camden Drive, Beverly Hills, is taking new bids from a closed, selected list of contractors for construction of 180 rental dwelling units on a site west of 182nd st., between Vermont ave. and Normandie ave., Torrance, by Dawson Homes, Inc. The units will be two stories in height, containing one to two bedrooms each; wood frame construction, stucco exterior, composition roofing, hardwood and linoleum floors, the drainboards, oil floor heaters, gas water heaters; cost \$800,000. Priorities have been issued. Bids are to be submitted at 3 p.m., Dec. 20, according to information received from the Southwest Builder and Contractor.

Torrance High Needs Science Unit Rebuilt

Increased enrollment at the Torrance high school this year has emphasized need of rehabilitating the Science bldg. which has been out of use since the earthquake in November, 1941. Members of the Los Angeles School District Board realize this, too, according to Harold E. Perry, principal, who has requested the Torrance Chamber of Commerce to write to the War Production Board to inform that body of the facts in the hope that such a letter may be helpful in obtaining priorities on necessary building material for use just as soon as possible.

Supt. Perry, however, realizes that the chances are slim that these can be obtained right away and the work of reconditioning the structure completed in time for the opening of school next September. He has talked with J. L. Lynch, Chamber president, who has informed Perry that the civic group will do everything in its power to help in bringing the existing situation to the attention of the W.P.B.

Meanwhile, the school principal has been granted permission by the city council to move a bungalow building onto school grounds to remain there, if necessary, for the duration of the war, which will at least partially relieve the existing lack of classrooms.

Bids Requested For Torrance Housing Units

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TORRANCE HAS NOT ESCAPED ILLNESS BY FLU

Like other Southern California communities, Torrance has not escaped the flu. A good many cases have been reported, but the malady is said to be of a mild form, resulting in no serious consequences. Because of the shortage of doctors, numbers afflicted have not called in a physician, but have followed the generally recommended health rule of going to bed, remaining quiet, drinking plenty of fruit juices or taking other home remedies to fight off the "bug."

County health authorities have no means of keeping a record of the cases in this community. The only ones noted are those reported through physicians. There is no way of checking those cases which have not gone through regular medical channels, it was said.

Books Given to Army Hospital's New Library

The chairman of the hospitalization committee of the 19th district, Fred Nessler, headed a group of American Legion commanders and other officials, who went to the Army Station hospital last Sunday shortly before noon to make the first contribution to the hospital library.

They carried with them several hundred volumes of books, 200 of which had been donated to the private library. Not long ago Mr. Wheaton donated 300 volumes of good reading matter to the library at Camp MacArthur. The donor feels that he has had the good of the books himself and having no further use for them told Jack Hallanger, commander of the Legion Post in Torrance, that he is glad to give them to the men in the services.

The book contribution, also several games and 60 walking sticks were presented to Major Benbow for the hospital who expressed his thanks for the generous donation which gives the new library a good start.

Besides Hallanger of the Torrance Legion Post, commanders of the Gardena, Wilmington, San Pedro, Redondo Beach and Harbor City Posts were in the party. After the presentation the visitors were shown about the hospital.

Hallanger stated that more books are needed and requests donors to leave them with him at the city clerk's office in the Torrance city hall and he will see that they are delivered at the hospital.

TO LEAVE TORRANCE

Mr. and Mrs. George Campbell Jones, Jr., of 2375 Torrance blvd., will leave to make their home at San Jose where he has taken a position.

Local War Production Plant Scene of Joyous Christmas Party Sunday

"Busy as the Joshua Hendy Iron Works is, a national organization turning out vital materials for the successful prosecution of the war, this organization is proud of its personnel and in every Hendy plant last Sunday afternoon, Christmas parties for the children of the organization were conducted and by the employees themselves."

Christmas Services At Catholic Church

The order of Christmas services at the Church of the Nativity has been announced by the Rev. Joseph L. Bauer, pastor, as follows:

Confessions: Friday afternoon, 3:30 to 6:00; Friday evening, 7:30 until the end. Masses Christmas morning: (Christmas carols before first mass): 6:00 a.m., high mass; 8:00 a.m., low mass; 10:00 a.m., low mass.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament after the last mass. No evening services.

Christmas Turkey Dinner for Men at Army Ordnance Camp

Christmas at the U. S. Army Ordnance camp on East Road, Torrance, has no special program for the Christmas season, said Major Berg, commanding officer. Of course, he said, there will be the traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

Gifts for the men at the camp will be delivered through Red Cross agencies, in addition to those coming by mail from relatives and friends.

Message of Rev. Paul Wheeler; St. Andrew's Church Yule Rites

"Christmas has always been expressed through giving. Without the birth of Christ and the yearly observance of his nativity by the Christian church, we would not be observing the season. May your thanksgiving to God be as generous as your gifts to family and friends.

"On behalf of Mrs. Wheeler and myself I want to wish you a joyous holiday season and pray that within your hearts will be the real meaning of Christmas—"that peace of God which passeth all understanding"—which will enable you to be a light unto others in these tragic hours when all around us so many have forsaken their God and Saviour and the gospel of redeeming love."

The foregoing is the Christmas message of Rev. Paul Moore Wheeler, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal church to his congregation and to the people of this community.

Christmas rites at St. Andrew's church will begin with the annual children's party attended by members of the kindergarten and primary departments on Wednesday, Dec. 22, under direction of Miss Virginia Berek.

On Christmas eve at 10:30 p.m. arrangements have been made for a choral festival appropriate for the occasion, followed by Holy Communion and a sermon by the rector.

The special program of Christmas music will be conducted by

Thus did W. A. Stirrat, plant manager of the company's Torrance works on Lomita blvd., briefly but sincerely get the

See Picture on Page 5-A

party for the children of the Hendy employees under way last Sunday by introducing Hal Griffiths, who played the traditional part of Santa Claus. After fraternizing with the 200 or more children that crowded around the gaily decorated Christmas tree loaded with gifts, he turned the program over to J. H. "Jimmy" Sword, the personnel manager who stepped into the role of master of ceremonies.

The first entertainment feature was a series of eight-minute sound cartoon films. There were loud cries of glee from the children as Mickey and Minnie Mouse and Donald Duck performed on the miniature screen and even the grownups cheered long and loud as the films were shown.

Following the pictures Santa Claus again stepped into the limelight after a brief and happy second introduction by Sword and each child was called to the

(Continued on Page 5-A)

Mrs. Addie Parks with Miss Amy Bourquin, organist. The soloists will be Mrs. Emma Carters, Mrs. Nadene Nickel and Mrs. Marjorie Johnson. This evening's ceremony will close with the traditional candlelight ceremony.

On Christmas day, a service of Holy Communion will be held at 10 a.m. The program for Sunday, Dec. 26, will be found in the regular church notices found on another page in this issue.